



keeping in touch

News and Notes from the
Fellowship Offices
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NOVEMBER

SEPTEMBER 1987

TOP 20 TITHES

(Received by October 10, 1987)

1. MCC Dallas.....	Dallas, TX	\$1505.66
2. MCC of the Resurrection.....	Houston, TX	1435.21
3. MCC San Diego.....	San Diego, CA	1279.52
4. MCC Washington DC.....	Washington, DC	1258.09
5. MCC Long Beach.....	Long Beach, CA	1081.01
6. Church/Holy Spirit.....	Ft Lauderdale, FL	979.37
7. MCC in the Valley.....	N. Hollywood, CA	871.04
8. King of Peace MCC.....	St Petersburg, FL	753.42
9. MCC of the Disciples.....	Washington, DC	671.77
10. MCC of Greater St. Louis.....	St. Louis, MO	663.27
11. St. Luke's MCC.....	Jacksonville, FL	650.75
12. Divine Redeemer MCC.....	Glendale, CA	576.78
13. MCC Portland.....	Portland, OR	541.11
14. MCC Tampa.....	Tampa, FL	532.83
15. River City MCC.....	Sacramento, CA	521.73
16. Church/Holy Spirit.....	Des Moines, IA	418.93
17. MCC New York.....	New York, NY	410.20
18. Holy Covenant MCC.....	Hinsdale, IL	387.95
19. Christ the King MCC.....	Oklahoma City, OK	387.77
20. MCC Albuquerque.....	Albuquerque, NM	376.88

SEPTEMBER 1987

TOP 20 PER CAPITA

(Received by October 10, 1987)

1. MCC of the Spirit.....	Harrisburg, PA	30.35
2. All Faiths MCC.....	San Diego, CA	25.17
3. MCC Washington DC.....	Washington, DC	24.10
4. Whitewater Valley MCC.....	Richmond, IN	21.84
5. MCC Mt. Vernon.....	Mt. Vernon, WA	20.00
6. MCC Amarillo.....	Amarillo, TX	17.45
7. MCC of the Disciples.....	Washington, DC	17.45
8. MCC Long Beach.....	Long Beach, CA	17.10
9. MCC of the Desert.....	Cathedral City, CA	16.76
10. MCC of the Sierras.....	Reno, NV	16.39
11. MCC Wichita.....	Wichita, KS	16.19
12. MCC Midland/Odessa.....	Midland, TX	16.11
13. MCC Baltimore.....	Baltimore, MD	16.08
14. MCC San Jose.....	San Jose, CA	15.52
15. MCC Ventura.....	Ventura, CA	15.47
16. MCC Baton Rouge.....	Baton Rouge, LA	15.25
17. Sweet Spirit MCC.....	Salem, OR	15.08
18. MCC Hartford.....	Hartford, CT	14.97
19. New Light MCC.....	Phoenix City, AL	14.90
20. Open Arms MCC.....	Rochester, NY	14.89

PRAISES

MCC Portland, Oregon had a very successful AIDS Vigil the second weekend of September. There was constant media coverage and many other churches responded; very different than last year when the Vigil was virtually ignored. The best measure of success is that Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has asked to co-sponsor the event next year.

Golden Gate MCC, San Francisco, Calif. has announced the opening of their "REST STOP". Rest Stop is a quiet oasis for people with AIDS located at 134 Church St. The Rest Stop provides a needed place to rest, meet friends and find someone to talk to about a problem. It is open from 10am to 6pm, Monday through Friday.

Praise God for the wonderful and successful turn out at the National March on Washington in October. Many reports have come in, overflowing with praises and stories of many beautiful events. Please be sure to read the article printed in this issue on the March.

The Great Lakes District voted to acknowledge Rev. La Paula Turner as full-time District Coordinator at \$11,400 annually to begin in January, 1988. The vote came as 100% from the Lay House and 90% from the Clergy House and also with a mandate that this area and area allotments be first priority. A miracle was performed as the business meeting was scheduled for 3 hours and was completed in 2 hours & 45 mins. (Most business meetings go overtime!)

PRAYERS

Please keep Rev. Elder Eastman's mother, who lives in Wisconsin, in your prayers as she is critically ill. Prayers also for Don and his family as they are concerned for her.

Please keep Dr. Armando Hernandez and his family in prayer as his grandmother died in September. Also prayers for Armando's spouse Pepe who has sores from Diabetes.

Please keep Philip DeBlieck's grandmother in your prayers as she suffered a stroke the end of October. Keep Philip and his family in your prayers as they are spending time with her.

GENERAL COUNCIL UPDATE

The members of the General Council of the UFMCC gathered in Washington, D.C. on October 11, 1987, to participate in the events of the March on Washington that day. On the following day we gathered to begin our fifth General Council meeting.

After welcoming our newest members: Rev. Elder Charlie Arehart, Elder Larry Rodriguez, Rev. Bill Hein - Australian District Coordinator, Rev. Susan Mabey - Eastern Canadian District Coordinator, and Rev. Edward Sherriff - Northwest District Coordinator; we heard a report from the Clergy Credentials & Concerns Committee presented by Rev. Jim Lewey and Rev. Delores Berry. We then had a time of sharing and a mini-retreat led by Elder Larry Rodriguez.

We heard a report from Rev. Danny Ray on a proposal for developing a new UFMCC hymnal.

We evaluated the present division structure of General Council and discussed ways of improving it. This resulted in the establishment of the following five divisions:

1) International Concerns & National Agendas Division

Chair: Mr. Art Pearson

Mr. R. Adam DeBaugh

Ms. Mary Moore

2) Research & Development Division

Chair: Rev. Elder Jean White

Rev. Ed Sherriff

Rev. Bill Hein

Rev. Elder Freda Smith

3) Communications, Policy & Review Division

Chair: Rev. Judy Dahl

Rev. Bob Arthur

Rev. Frankye White

Elder Larry Rodriguez

4) Program & Budget Division

Chair: Rev. Elder Don Eastman

Rev. Bonnie Daniel

Rev. La Paula Turner

Rev. Elder Charlie Arehart

Rev. Susan Mabey

5) Corporate & Legal Division

Chair: Rev. Willie White

Mr. Clarke Friesen

Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson

We issued MCC in El Paso, Texas a Charter, and received returned Charters from MCC of the Ozarks in Fayetteville, Arkansas and New Spirit MCC in Cincinnati Ohio.

We named the Corporate & Legal Division as the By-laws Committee.

General Council Update (Cont'd)

We appointed a committee to begin work on the 20th Anniversary dinner in Los Angeles on October 6, 1988, and approved a \$4000 bonus to Rev. Perry in 1988 as a 20th Anniversary gift.

We set the theme for 1989 General Conference to be held in Minneapolis/St. Paul, "Good News For All People". We also set the site for future Conferences: 1991: Washington, DC or another city in the northeastern U.S. and in 1993: Los Angeles, California.

The Elders Task Force on World Church Extension was established to propose new policies and structures for World Church Extension.

Rev. Elder Roy Birchard was appointed Chair of the Judiciary Committee.

Barbara Ferguson was approved as a member of Samaritan College's Board of Trustees.

It was reported that the Country of Nigeria has donated land to UFMCC for an expanded hospital.

Procedures for flow of information for General Council were established.

We ensured health insurance for General Council international travel.

Journey Magazine was suspended until adequate staffing and funding can be provided.

Moved the following officers of the Board of Elders:

Moderator - Rev. Troy D. Perry

Vice-Moderator - Rev. Freda Smith

Clerk - Rev. Nancy Wilson

Treasurer - Rev. Don Eastman

Secretary of World Church Extension -

Rev. Jean White

Member - Rev. Charlie Arehart

Member - Mr. Larry Rodriguez

Approval of a line item to be added to the UFMCC Budget designated for benevolence. Funds collected will be available to meet the needs of pastoral leaders, Fellowship personnel, and their families in cases of catastrophic illnesses or situations.

Set the dates of March 8-15, 1988 and October 6-14, 1988 for General Council meetings next year.



NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON

The weekend of October 10-11 saw hundreds of thousands of lesbians, gays and supporters arrive in Washington, D.C. for what turned out to be the largest demonstration for gay rights in history (and possibly the largest demonstration of any kind to be held in our nation's capital, depending on whose estimate you believe...the Park Police originally gave an estimate of 50,000 which they later revised to 200,000, however, a National Park Service Guide says that 600,000 people can fit on the Mall between Third and Seventh Streets. Since we filled that area, and less densely between Seventh all the way to Twelfth Streets, the crowd might have numbered as large as 750,000).

On Saturday, October 10th, approximately 2000 couples participated in "The Wedding" in front of the Internal Revenue Service building on Constitution Avenue to push for recognition of gay relationships. On the way to the Wedding, a small band of fundamentalists with large banners were preaching hate. Rev. Perry walked right up into the center of them and told the crowd, "they're preaching hate--what we're preaching is love". During the "ceremony" Rev. Perry again mentioned the small group that was still preaching hate and everyone gathered along Constitution Avenue started yelling "shame, shame" at them.

On the BIG day, Sunday, October 11th, Rev. Perry and the Board of Elders held a Communion Service at the Lincoln Memorial. Over a thousand people were served Communion. After the service we marched as a group to the start of the March. When Rev. Perry reached the end of the reflecting pool he looked back and our contingent stretched all the way back to the Lincoln Memorial. The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches had the largest contingent in the March walking behind our huge banner.

The same hecklers that were at the Wedding on Saturday were across from the White House screaming at us on Sunday. We all sang "Jesus Love Me" and drowned them out.

Some of the speakers at the Rally included Rev. Perry, Comedienne Robin Tyler, newly-declared Presidential Candidate Jesse Jackson (who said, "Today I stand with you. At election time, you stand with me. God bless you."), actor Robert Blake, playwright Harvey Fierstein ("Torch Song Trilogy", "La Cage Au Folles") and Whoopi Goldberg (who pushed a friend who has aids in a wheelchair in the March).

From the Aids Quilt to the Gay Bands Concert to the aids run to the leather/S&M Conference to the lobbying of Congress to the Civil Disobedience at the Supreme Court on Tuesday where over 600 people were arrested (some by police wearing clear plastic gloves) it was a weekend that many people will never forget.

by: Frank Zerilli

NEW DIVISIONS OF GENERAL COUNCIL

PROGRAM & BUDGET

CHAIR: Rev. Elder Don Eastman

MEMBERS: Rev. Bonnie Daniel
Rev. La Paula Turner
Rev. Elder Charlie Arehart
Rev. Sue Mabey

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

CHAIR: Rev. Elder Jean White

MEMBERS: Rev. Ed Sherriff
Rev. Bill Hein
Rev. Elder Freda Smith

CORPORATE & LEGAL

CHAIR: Rev. Willie White

MEMBERS: Mr. Clarke Friesen
Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson

COMMUNICATIONS, POLICY & REVIEW

CHAIR: Rev. Judy Dahl

MEMBERS: Rev. Bob Arthur
Rev. Frankye White
Elder Larry Rodriguez

INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS & NATIONAL AGENDAS

CHAIR: Mr. Art Pearson

MEMBERS: Mr. Adam DeBaugh
Ms. Mary Moore

RESUMES WANTED

MCC in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA is accepting resumes for the position of Church Secretary. Person needs to have general office skills, typing (60 wpm), computer experience and personal relations skills. MCC church membership/experience preferred. Job will be a 35 hour work week, Wed. - Sun. with salary \$15,000 to \$17,000 per yr plus benefits depending on experience. Position to begin on 1/2/88. Need to be available for interviews the second week of December. Please send resumes to: MCC in the Valley, 5730 Cahuenga, N. Hollywood, CA 91601, to the attention of Wendy Foxworth, Executive Director.

NEW ADDRESS

The Rev. Jeffrey Pulling and the Office of Ministry Resources have a new address within Hartford:

P.O. Box 14529

Hartford, CT 06114

New phone number is (203) 278-6512

The new facilities are wonderful and more spacious!

SAMARTIAN CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

All mail concerning Samaritan Correspondence Courses and UFMCC proficiency exams should be sent to:

Rev. Jeffrey Pulling

P.O. Box 14529

Hartford, CT 06114

Update on History of Christian Thought Proficiency Course - October 1987

The correspondence course OUR STORY TOO is still not ready to be distributed. Consequently C.C.C.C. has determined that 1988 applicants for initial licensure or transfer may be credentialed without meeting this requirement provided they meet this requirement by course or exam within two years of licensure.

Clergy licensed in 1987 without meeting this requirement will have two years to complete it from the time the finished course is announced in the first quarter of 1988.

JUSTICE FOR ALL

November 17, 1987 will not be just another day. A National citizens committee has called on all Americans to come together that day - in their communities, schools, and workplaces - to reaffirm our country's commitment to the principle of "Justice For All". Millions will gather to educate themselves about the realities of hunger, homelessness, and poverty in America, and to consider how we can end this national disgrace. We need you to make this campaign a success. We invite individuals and organizations from all walks of life, all parts of the country, to join this historic effort. If you are planning to join in this effort please contact Justice For All, 15 Dutch Street, Room 500, New York, NY 10038 or call (212) 962-0393.

*Give
Thanks*

CANCELED INSURANCE?

MCC Portland, Oregon had their insurance canceled by Penn American Insurance Co. for housing radical groups. The State Insurance Commissioner was asked to investigate after the company refused to respond to the church's insurance agent or the church. The company has apologized and offered coverage. At this time, the church has already secured other coverage, but upon expiration will re-apply to test the willingness. The church is asking that other churches also apply to Penn America to see if a pattern of denials can be established. If you are denied, please contact MCC Portland.

UFMCC PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONSULTATION

Nine members of Metropolitan Community Churches represented the UFMCC in a bi-national theological consultation on AIDS in Toronto, Canada, Oct. 23-25.

The consultation, "AIDS: Grappling with the Theological and Ethical Issues" was hosted by the Toronto School of Theology at the University of Toronto under the sponsorship of the World Council of Churches, the Canadian Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA.

One hundred thirty (130) participants at the invitational consultation were divided into three working groups on "Social Consequences of AIDS", "Illness and Health", and "Sexuality". Each group reviewed the presentation of several papers, and drafted statements, comments and recommendations.

The entire proceedings, along with reflections and reactions, will be published in a book to be released by Pilgrim Press in early 1988.

A full report on the consultation is being prepared by Rev. Ron Russell-Coons for the next issue of "ALERT", the UFMCC AIDS Newsletter. If you do not already receive "ALERT", please contact the UFMCC offices to be added to the Mailing List.

NCC MEETS IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Representatives of UFMCC and the NCC Governing Board will report on the conclusion of the series of three Consultations held during the past two years. Watch for a complete report in the next issue of Keeping In Touch.